Government of India for tackling the arsenic problem in 24 Parganas under bilateral assistance from Germany. The project was received on 27th April, 1995 and is under examination by the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission.

Involvement of Zila Parishads in the planning of Ninth Five Year Plan

6529. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made it mandatory for the involvement of Zila Parishads in over-all planning for the 9th Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the guidelines issued to State Governments in this regard; and

(c) whether such a process is already in place; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS & EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI PATEL): (a) to (c) District Planning is a separate process, different from the overall planning for the five year plan. Vide article 243 ZD of the Constitution,. the District Planning Committees will consolidate the plans prepared by the panchayats and municpalities in the district and will prepare a draft development plan for the district as a whole. Some of the elected members of the district level panchayats will be elected to the district planning committee and hence, Zila Parishads also have their role in the district planning. Finer details would follow from the States' Legislations on Panchayats and Nagar Palikas.

Letters written by MPs

6530. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL *Alias* MEEM AFZAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of letters written by the Members of Parliament to the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment during the period from 1st April, 1994 to 31st March, 1995;

(b) what is the number of letters acknowledged out of them;

(c) what is the number of letters in respect of which final replies were sent; and

(d) what is the break-up of final letters issued by the Ministry containing positive and negative replies respectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS & EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI PATEL): (a) to (d) During the period from 1st April, 1994 to 31st March, 1995, 334 letters from Members of Parliament were received in the Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment. Out of these, 296 letters were acknowledged and final replies have already been sent in respect of 241 letters. It is not possible to classify all the final replies sent, as 'positive' or 'negative'.

Proposal to generate millions of Mandays Employment

6531. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to generate millions of mandays employment during the financial year 1995-96;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how many such mandays employment are likely to be generated in the State of Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS & EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI PATEL): (a) to (c) The employment generation target of 920.71 million mandays at all India level and 95.80 million mandays in Madhya Pradesh have